

14.0 GLOSSARY

Acre-foot. A measure of water or sediment volume equal to the amount that would cover an area of 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot (325,851 gallons).

Affected Environment. The biological, physical, social, and economic environment subject to changes that may take place as a result of proposed human activity.

Agricultural Land. "Agricultural land" means prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California. (b) In those areas of the state where lands have not been surveyed for the classifications specified in subdivision (a), "agricultural land" means land that meets the requirements of "prime agricultural land" as defined in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 51201 of the Government Code.

Alternative. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision making.

Ambient. Surrounding on all sides; used to describe measurements of existing conditions with respect to traffic, noise, air, and other environments.

Ambient Air. The air occurring at a particular time and place outside of structures. Often used interchangeably with "outdoor" air.

Aquifer. An underground, water-bearing layer of earth, porous rock, sand, gravel, or other geological formation, or group of formations, through which water can seep or be held in natural storage. Aquifers are sources of groundwater for wells and springs, and generally hold sufficient water to be used as a water supply.

Archaeological Site. An archaeological site is defined as a site that must consist of at least three associated artifacts or a single feature; and be at least 45 year of age. The age of the site may be determined by artifactual evidence, documentary evidence, or similarity of the site to others which have firm dating (*California Archaeological Inventory Handbook for Completing an Archaeological Site Record* [OHP 1989b]).

Area of Potential Effects. Area of potential effects means the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking (Section 106, 36 CFR Part 800).

Attainment. Compliance with state and federal ambient air quality standards within an air basin. (See "Nonattainment")

Attainment Area. A geographic area that is in compliance with the National and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS or CAAQS).

Average Daily Traffic (ADT). The average 24-hour volume, being total volume during a stated period divided by the number of days in that period. Unless otherwise stated, the period is 1 year. (FSM 7721.05b, FSH 7709.11, FSH 7709.15, and AASHTO Highway Definitions)

Best Management Practices (BMPs). Those methods, measures, or practices that include, but are not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures.

Buildout/Build-Out. Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations.

California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). Standards set by the State of California for the maximum levels of air pollutants that can exist in the outdoor air without unacceptable effects on human health or the public welfare. These are more stringent than NAAQS.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A California law that sets forth a process for public agencies to make informed decisions on discretionary project approvals. The process aids decision makers to determine whether any environmental effects are associated with a proposed project. It requires environmental effects associated with a proposed project to be identified, disclosed, and mitigated to the maximum extent feasible.

CFR. Code of Federal Regulations.

Channel Scour. Removal of loose material by running water from the wetted portion of a stream channel.

Collector Road. Serves smaller land areas than an arterial road and is usually connected to an arterial road or public highway. Collects traffic from local roads and/or terminal facilities. The location and standard are influenced by long-term multiresource service needs, as well as by travel efficiency. May be operated for either constant or intermittent service, depending on land use and resource management objectives for the area served by the facility. (FSM 7710.51)

Corridor. A linear strip of land identified for the present or future location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries. (36 CFR 219.3)

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, advises, and provides guidance to the President on environmental matters.

Criteria Pollutants. Criteria air pollutants -- a group of very common air pollutants regulated by EPA on the basis of criteria (information on health and/or environmental effects of pollution). Criteria air pollutants are widely distributed all over the country. EPA has set national air quality standards for six common pollutants: ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, and lead (EPA).

Critical Habitat. The specific areas within a geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of Section 1533, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species (ESA, Section 1532).

Cumulative Effects. Cumulative effects result from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency or person undertakes them (NEPA).

dB. Decibel; a unit used to express the relative intensity of a sound as it is heard by the human ear.

dBA. The “A-weighted” scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually 10 times more intense.

de minimis. Latin term meaning about the least, smallest, or slightest. A *de minimis* contribution means that the environmental conditions would essentially be the same whether or not the proposed project is implemented. CEQA Guideline § 15139 (a)(4).

Developed Recreation. Recreation use that occurs in constructed facilities (developed sites), such as campgrounds, observation sites, and ski areas.

Dispersed Recreation. Recreation use that occurs outside of developed sites and requires few, if any, improvements other than roads and trails. Representative activities are hiking, backpacking, driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, off-road vehicle use, etc.

Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by the land and resource management plan.

Easement. Usually the right to use property owned by another for specific purposes or to gain access to another property (County of Riverside 2002a).

Effects. Results expected to be achieved, or actually achieved, relative to physical, biological, and social (cultural and economic) factors resulting from the achievement of outputs. Examples of effects are tons of sediment, pounds of forage, person-years of employment, income, etc. There are direct effects, indirect effects, and cumulative effects.

Endangered Species. Animals, birds, fish, plants, or other living organisms threatened with extinction by anthropogenic (man-caused) or other natural changes in their environment.

Requirements for declaring a species endangered are contained in the Endangered Species Act (EPA).

Environment. CEQA defines environment as “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.”

Environmental Analysis. An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable short- and long-term environmental effects, which include physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental design factors and their interactions.

Environmental Effect. The change, positive or negative, in the physical, biological, economic, or social state directly or indirectly resulting from one or more activities or outputs.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A report required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, which assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area, determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action, and identifies alternatives or other measures to avoid or reduce those effects or impacts (CEQA).

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A document required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act for major projects or legislative proposals significantly affecting the environment. A tool for decision making, it describes the positive and negative effects of the undertaking and cites alternative actions (EPA).

Erosion. The loosening and transportation of rock and soil debris by wind, rain, or running water. Also, the gradual wearing away of the upper layers of earth.

Farmland. See “Agricultural Land.”

Fault. A fracture in the earth’s crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted.

Flood, 100-Year. The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or 1 percent, chance of occurring in any given year.

Floodplain. Land adjacent to a channel, which is covered with water when the stream overflows its bank.

Forest Highway. A forest road under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel. (Title 23 USC 101 as amended by the Surface Transportation Act of 1978)

Forest Road or Trail. A road or trail wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System and that is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources. (Title 23 USC 101 as amended by the Surface Transportation Act of 1978)

Fugitive Dust. Dust particles that are introduced into the air through certain activities such as soil cultivation, off-road vehicles, or any vehicles operating on open fields or dirt roadways.

Geologic Hazards. Earth movement including, but not limited to, all forms of mass wasting, seismic hazards (including liquefaction and earthquake induced landslides), avalanches, volcanoes, seiches, and sand dunes.

Ground Shaking. Ground movement resulting from the transmission of seismic waves during an earthquake.

Groundwater. Subsurface water in a saturated zone or geologic stratum.

Habitat. The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Habitats of Special Concern. Habitats with a high level of public or agency concern related to management of the Forest (SBNF Land and Resource Management Plan).

Hazardous Material. Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.

Historic Property. A historic property is any cultural resource that has been listed or determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, according to the criteria contained in 36 CFR 60.4. The Programmatic Agreement for the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service also defines a historic property as “any property that has not yet been evaluated to determine whether it is eligible for the NRHP.”

Historical Archaeological Resources. Historical archaeological resources include refuse scatters and deposits such as can and bottle dumps, filled-in privy pits and cisterns, melted adobe walls and foundations, collapsed structures and associated features, mines and prospects, logging camps and mill sites, and roads, firebreaks, and trails. These resources may date from the earliest Spanish explorations in the area (A.D. 1772) to the Cold War era (1945). Property types within this category can be considered as sites, districts, or objects.

Historical Buildings and Structures. Historical buildings and structures include intact buildings and structures of any type that are 45 years of age or older. These resources are sometimes referred to as the “built environment” and include houses, barns, and other buildings, and structures such as irrigation works, bridges, and other engineering features. In the study area, buildings and structures are nearly always historical, as prehistoric buildings are unknown for this area, and prehistoric structures are generally recorded as archaeological sites or features.

Historical Resource. A historical resource is any cultural resource that is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined by the lead agency to be a historical resource, according to the criteria contained in the CEQA Guidelines (CCR § 15064.5(a)).

Important Habitat. Those portions of emphasis species habitat that are critical to sustain population levels and prevent their decline (SBNF Land and Resource Management Plan).

Impervious Surface. Surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as roof, road, sidewalk, and paved parking lot. The amount of impervious surface increases with development and establishes the need for drainage facilities to carry the increased runoff.

Irretrievable. Applies to losses of production, harvest, or use of renewable natural resources. For example, some or all of the timber production from an area is irretrievably lost while an area is being used as a winter sports site. If the use is changed, timber production can be resumed. The production loss is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.

Irreversible. Applies primarily to the use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors that are renewable only over long time spans, such as soil productivity. Irreversible also includes loss of future options.

L_{eq} . The energy equivalent level, defined as the average sound level on the basis of sound energy (or sound pressure squared). The L_{eq} is a "dosage" type measure and is the basis for the descriptors used in current standards, such as the 24-hour Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) used by the State of California.

Level of Service (Traffic). A scale that measures the amount of traffic that a roadway or intersection can accommodate, based on such factors as maneuverability, driver dissatisfaction, and delay.

Liquefaction. The transformation of loose, wet soil from a solid to a liquid state, often as a result of ground shaking during an earthquake.

Management Areas. Areas of land to which specific management activities will be applied, and which permit the scheduling of development or capital investments for resource use. For planning purposes in the San Bernardino National Forest, management areas are defined in three ways: (1) groupings of watersheds that have similar watershed characteristics such as beneficial uses or sediment outputs; (2) wilderness areas; and (3) potential wilderness areas. Where potential wilderness areas cross watershed boundaries, they are split into two parts by the watershed boundary.

Mitigation. Measures taken to reduce adverse effects on the environment (EPA).

Multiple-Use. The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest System so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in the use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some lands will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output (36 CFR 219.3)

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Act, to declare a national policy that will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. A plan developed to meet the requirements of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended, that guides all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the National Forest System lands of a given National Forest.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). A 1966 federal law that established a National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and that authorized grants-in-aid for preserving historic properties (Section 106).

National Recreation Trail. A component of the National Trails System, which is established, as provided in 16 USC 1242, and which will provide a day use or extended trail experience for the enjoyment of a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities reasonable accessible to population centers.

National Register of Historic Places. A list of recognized cultural resource properties that possess national, state, or local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, or culture.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture that exists in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, state, and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Native Plant Species. Living or growing naturally in a particular region. An original or indigenous inhabitant.

National Scenic Trail (Legal Definition). A component of the National Trails System, which is designated by Congress, as provided in 16 USC 1242, and which is an extended trail so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of national significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass.

No Action Alternative. The most likely condition expected to exist in the future if current condition continued unchanged.

Noise. Any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing, or is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise, simply, is “unwanted sound.”

Noise Attenuation. Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.

Noise Contour. A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.

Nonattainment. The condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance. Frequently used in reference to air quality. (See “Attainment”)

Nonattainment Area. A geographic area identified by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or Air Resources Board as not meeting either NAAQS or CAAQS standards for a given pollutant.

Nonpoint Source. Originating from many indefinable sources or a diffuse source (water).

OHV. Off-highway vehicle (formerly called off-road vehicles or ORV). Includes most motorized means of transportation capable of traveling over land where no road exists, such as four-wheel drive vehicles, trail bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles.

Ozone. A pungent, colorless, toxic gas. Close to the earth's surface, it is produced photochemically from hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and sunlight and is a major component of smog. At very high altitudes it protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

Particulate Matter (PM). Atmospheric particulate made up of finely divided solids or liquids such as soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and mists. Commonly classified into two categories: PM₁₀ (particles between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in length) and PM_{2.5} (particles less than 2.5 micrometers in length).

Particulates. Small particles that are suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants.

pH. An expression of the intensity of the basic or acid condition of a liquid; may range from 0 to 14, where 0 is the most acid and 7 is neutral, and 14 is the most basic. Natural waters usually have a pH between 6.5 and 8.5.

Pollutant. Generally, any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems.

Pollution, Nonpoint. Sources for pollution that are less definable and usually cover broad areas of land, such as agricultural land with fertilizers that are carried from the land by runoff, or automobiles.

Pollution, Point. In reference to water quality, a discrete source from which pollution is generated before it enters receiving waters, such as a sewer outfall, a smokestack, or an industrial waste pipe.

Preferred Alternative. The alternative recommended for implementation based on the evaluation completed in the planning process.

Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeological Resources. Prehistoric and protohistoric archaeological resources may date from more than 8,500 years ago to the time of European contact and the disruption of aboriginal lifeways (ca. A.D. 1772–1821 in the study area). They may include the remains of villages and camp sites, food-processing locations, lithic resource procurement and tool making locations, burial and cremation areas, trails, rock art, and isolated artifacts. Property types within this category can be sites, districts, or objects. Prehistoric archaeological resources are the result of cultural activities of the ancestors and predecessors of contemporary Native Americans and in many cases retain special traditional and sacred significance for those communities.

Primary Standards. The Clean Air Act established two types of NAAQS – “primary and secondary.” “Primary” standards are designed to establish limits to protect public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly.

Prime Agricultural Land. Means any of the following:

- a. All land that qualifies for rating as class I or class II in the Natural Resource Conservation Service land use capability classifications.
- b. Land that qualifies for rating 80 through 100 in the Storie Index Rating.
- c. Land that supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and that has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- d. Land planted with fruit- or nut-bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops that have a nonbearing period of less than 5 years and that will normally return during the

- commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) per acre.
- e. Land that has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products an annual gross value of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) per acre for 3 of the previous 5 years.

Public Access. Usually refers to a road or trail route over which a public agency claims a right-of-way for public use.

Public Involvement. A process designed to broaden the information base upon which agency decisions are made by (1) informing the public about activities, plans, and decision, and (2) encouraging public understanding about and participation in the planning processes that lead to final decision making.

Public Land Highway Project. Highway projects on the Federal Aid Highway System, entirely within the boundaries of a federal agency and significantly impacted by federal land and resource management activities.

Public Participation Activities. Meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours, written comments, response to survey questionnaires, and similar activities designed and held to obtain comments from the general public and specific publics.

Recreation, Active. A type of recreation or activity that requires the use of organized play areas including, but not limited to, software, baseball, football and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, and various forms of children's play equipment.

Recreation, Passive. Type of recreation or activity that does not require the use of organized play areas.

Regional. Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction, and affecting a broad geographic area.

Revegetation. Enhancement of existing vegetation by planting or seeding; includes fertilizing and seeding.

Richter Scale. A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.

Right-of-Way (ROW). (1) The privilege that one person, or persons particularly described, may have of passing over the land of another in some particular line. (2) An easement through the land of another, obtained for access by donation, purchase or condemnation. Generally, does not apply to absolute purchases of ownership. (Real Estate Appraisal Terminology) The term is used to describe a strip of land occupied or intended to be occupied by certain transportation

and public use facilities, such as roads and railroads, for pipe or utility pole lines, and for private or public passageways.

Riparian Areas. Areas that consist of geographically delineated areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics, which are composed of aquatic and riparian ecosystems, floodplains, and wetlands. They include, but are not limited to, all areas within a horizontal distance of 100 feet from the edge of perennial streams or other water bodies. (FSM 2526.05)

Riparian Ecosystem. The zone of transition between aquatic ecosystems and adjacent terrestrial ecosystems, identified by the soil characteristics and distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water at least seasonally. (FSM 2526.11)

Riverwash. Unstabilized sandy, silty, clayey, or gravelly sediment that is flooded and washed and reworked frequently by rivers.

Record of Decision (ROD). After preparing an EIS, at the time of its decision, a federal agency must prepare a ROD, a written public record explaining why it has taken a particular course of action (40 CFR 1505.2).

Runoff. That part of precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface-water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into receiving waters.

Secondary Standards. The Clean Air Act established two types of National Ambient Air Quality Standards- "primary and secondary." "Secondary" standards set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

Sedimentation. The deposition of detached soil and rock material transported by or suspended in water.

Seismic. Caused by or subject to earthquakes or earth vibrations.

Sensitive Habitats. Habitats for emphasis species that are extremely vulnerable to destruction or adverse modification. Impact to these habitats would result in a significant decline of species productivity or survivability. These areas include important habitat of all threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TE&S) species.

Sensitive Species. Native species with population viability threats. Special management is needed to ensure their survival. In addition to federal and state official threatened and endangered species, sensitive species include the Regional Forester's lists of sensitive plants and animals as well as the Forest Supervisor's list of Forest Sensitive Species.

Short-Term Effects. Those effects that will not be significant beyond the Resources Planning Act horizon of 50 years.

Significant. A term used to denote a degree of effect relative to a threshold or standard for additional evaluation or mitigation.

Smog. A combination of smoke, ozone, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and other chemically reactive compounds, which, under certain conditions of weather and sunlight, may result in a murky brown haze that causes adverse health effects. The primary source of smog in California is motor vehicle exhaust.

Soil Productivity. The capability of a soil to produce a specific crop such as fiber, forage, etc., under defined levels of management. Generally dependent on available soil moisture, nutrients, and climatic conditions.

Soil Surveys. Systematic examinations of soils in the field and in laboratories; such exams are at differing “orders” and interpretation according to their adaptability for various crops, grasses, and trees. There are five classed orders of surveys, with order 1 being the highest intensity, through order 5 being the lowest intensity.

Species of Regional Special Concern. Species formerly considered as candidates for federal listing; species of concern to the state of California including those species listed as threatened and endangered by the state of California under the California Endangered Species Act; those species listed as sensitive by the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP); and species that are regionally rare or of limited distribution and listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

Special Status Species. Special status species are defined as those plant and animal species listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed as such, by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act.

Threatened and Endangered Species. A species or subspecies of animals or plants whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy (Endangered) or likely to become so (Threatened) within the foreseeable future. These species are identified by the Secretary of Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act. California also classifies Threatened and Endangered species within the state.

Traditional Cultural Properties. Traditional cultural properties are locations or resources that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP because of their association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community’s history and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community (Parker and King 1994). They may or may not contain physical remains. For this study area, traditional cultural properties are most likely to be associated with Native American cultures.

Trailhead. A point where a development trail begins or intersects with another transportation facility (road, trail, lake, river, etc.) and provides for transfer from one mode of transportation to another (parking lot, loading ramp, stock holding, watering facility, etc.).

Trip. A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination via a single mode of transportation; the smallest unit of movement considered in transportation studies. Each trip has one “production end” (or origin--often from home, but not always), and one “attraction end” (destination).

Trip Generation. The dynamics that account for people making trips in automobiles or by means of public transportation. Trip generation is the basis for estimating the level of use for a transportation system and the impact of additional development or transportation facilities on an existing, local transportation system. Trip generations of households are correlated with destinations that attract household members for specific purposes.

Utility Corridors. Rights-of-way or easements for utility lines on either publicly or privately owned property. (See “Rights-of-Way” or “Easement”)

Vehicle-Miles Traveled (VMT). A key measure of overall street and highway use. Reducing VMT is often a major objective in efforts to reduce vehicular congestion and achieve regional air quality goals.

View Corridor. The line of sight identified as to height, width, and distance of an observer looking toward an object of significance to the community (e.g., ridgeline, river, historic building, etc.); the route that directs the viewers’ attention.

Viewshed. The area within view from a defined observation point.

Visual Quality Objective (VQO). A desired level of excellence based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area. Refers to degree of acceptable alteration of the landscape. Classes include preservation, retention, partial retention, modification, and maximum modification:

Preservation: Allows ecological changes only.

Retention: Provides for management activities that are not visually evident.

Partial Retention: Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic.

Modification: Management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape. They must borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so completely and at such a scale that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type.

Maximum modification: Management activities dominate the characteristic landscape. However, when viewed as background, the visual characteristics must be those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area or character type. When viewed as foreground or middle ground, they may not appear to completely borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture.

Visual Resource. The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetative patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for visitors.

Watershed. The area that contributes water to a drainage or stream.

Wetlands. Those areas that are inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient under normal circumstances to support a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonably saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mudflats, and natural ponds. (FSM 2527.05)